

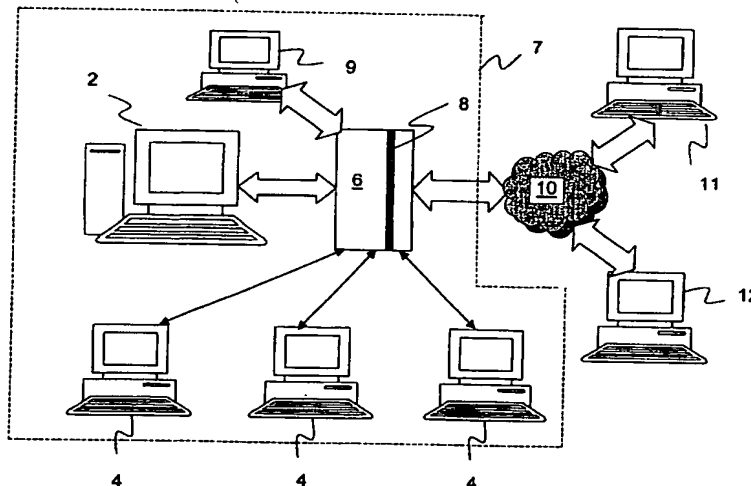
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(54) Title: **METHOD, SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR MONITORING AND CONTROLLING DATA TRANSFER IN COMMUNICATION NETWORKS**

(57) Abstract: A method of monitoring and controlling data transfer between user terminals (4) coupled to a first communication network (7) and a second communication network (10) via a gateway (6) and a firewall (8) includes the user terminals (4) sending access requests to the gateway (6), the gateway (6) reading each access request, modifying access rules in the firewall (8) to permit access for each user terminal requesting access based on an authenticated IP address of each user terminal and monitoring simultaneously at the firewall (8) the transfer of data between each user terminal (4) and the second communication network (10). Bandwidth allocation to the terminals may be dynamically controlled on a global or local basis.